

THE LIBERATOR

A Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Cause of Good Government and the Advancement of the American Negro.

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California Conference of the A. M. E. Church a Political Machine. A Brazen Alliance with Corrupt Influences.

A conference or a church has as much right to engage in politics as an individual when the part so taken is for the elevation of the moral tone of the community, thus promoting the cause of good government. This is not only a privilege, but the duty of every Christian church. When the community is afflicted with the existence of a moral wrong, no church worthy of the name will rest till the affliction is stamped out. Hence the right of the church to engage in politics when necessary to secure that end. But when a church sacrifices principle and engages in politics as a gainful occupation, as a matter of business, it will be found in the ranks of those that offer the best inducements. Such a church loses its moral force, ceases to command respect, and becomes not only a loss but a detriment to the community that supports it. This is becoming painfully true of the California Conference of the great A. M. E. church.

The responsibility for this harmful result should be placed where it belongs. This responsibility does not rest upon the shoulders of the rank and file of the membership; they are a part of our exemplary citizens.

Owing to the fact that the first A. M. E. Church of this city is the largest and most important in the state, the presiding elder and the pastor of this church are to all intent and purposes the California Conference. These men shape the destiny and policy of the churches.

Dirty Politics

That the part these gentlemen took in the recent campaigns and the banners under which they fought had potent influence upon the churches under their jurisdiction, goes without saying.

Two years ago when the good people of this city were engaged in deadly combat with the forces of evil; when the malign influences

of the saloon, gambling houses and dens of vice and shame defiantly flaunted their flags in the face of decency; and the call for workers came from every quarter, the pastor of the first A. M. E. Church, one of the moving spirits of the California Conference, was fighting under the banner of those who were battling for a wide open town. While public meetings were being held in nearly every church, the first A. M. E. church stood like a deserted cemetery while its pastor was serving as the star attraction for the open town managers. When the corrupt political combine grew desperate and opened a campaign of slander, this pastor sent one Rev. Ireland, as his personal representative to furnish more sinews for such a campaign.

Conscious of the ignomy of such a spectacle, many of the young members of the A. M. E. church threatened a revolt. The lay members were in a measure silenced and several young ministers who refused to go into the open town camp were marked for slaughter. They offended by giving their support to the Good Government ticket and were, at the first opportunity, forced out of the conference. Presiding Elder Wilson who was publishing a machine newspaper at Riverside moved it down to this city so that he could render greater service in supporting the ticket that stood for a wide open town. So powerful was the influence of this ministerial combination that many colored ministers of other denominations took no part in the campaign lest a row be kicked up in their churches as it had been boldly hinted that every Negro minister who supported the ticket that stood for a clean municipality would be starved out. But in spite of slander and intimidation a large majority of the colored voters cast their ballots for a clean city.

In order that the Elder and the first A. M. E. Pastor could remain in Southern California as their time limit had expired, they had the district divided forming the new Los Angeles district. This left them on the ground to take up the fight for subduing young ministers they could not handle by forcing them out of the California Conference.

With conditions like the above obtaining in the California Conference it is no wonder that nearly every department showed little or no advancement. In the past year the conversions were so few that no notice was taken of them. The Annual Conference deemed it unworthy to ask about or record conversions, the time being taken up, making up financial deficits. The dollar money ran away behind. The Bishop had to continually wield his big stick to raise the educational fund. One church claiming nearly a thousand members, raised something like \$400.00 of the dollar money. Using the dollar money as a basis of the membership, that church has about 400 members and actual falling off. According to these figures the A. M. E. denomination has all told in this city of 20,000 colored people, something like six hundred members.

Although in his opening address, the Bishop stated that the number of young men who were studying for the A. M. E. Ministry were growing less; that the young men are straying from the church, he made no effort to protect the four young ministers in the exercise of their rights as worthy, intelligent citizens and stood by and allowed them to be ruthlessly crushed by a pulpit politician, in spite of the fact that not one thing derogatory to their characters could be produced. If the young and capable men of the race are to be kept in the church, the old slave methods as are now in vogue in many negro churches will have to be abolished.

ABOUT CHILDREN

Well mannered children are loved and well thought of now and always have been, but the multitude of the other kind are dreaded and endured, and grow up to be undesirable citizens. Not only so, but they are in great danger of being eternally lost. Never having been controlled, it is hard for them to submit to the control of God. Never having experienced any hardness, how can they endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ? If they are ever brought to good discipleship it will probably be through the furnace of affliction of some kind.

Children are being pampered and overdone as a rule nowadays and it frightens those who think and have the welfare of the human race at heart. Too much effort cannot be made for their salvation at an early age, but they can not come into that experience and state without a sense of their sins and a proper horror of sin. It is a mistake to minimize sin in their cases and speak as though their sins were small and of little consequence. The big majority of all the children who have been saved young have had a deep conviction for sin and a fear of hell that preceded a realization of sins forgiven. They should make restitution and ask forgiveness of others up to the measure of the sins committed. They should also be taught that their lives must conform with their profession and that if they belong to the church they must live in conformity to its rules and usages. We should encourage children and give them a helping hand, but not encourage them in a false hope and in a life unbecoming to a professor of salvation.

'Even a child is known by his doing.'—'Scribbler.'—From the Pentecost.

The Sunflower Cafeteria opened day and night. Meals fifteen cents and up. Short orders a specialty. Always stop when you want a first class meal.

1414 East Ninth street. R. A. Davis, Prop.

PRES. J. F. LANE WILL ADDRESS THE PEOPLE'S LYCEUM

Hon. J. F. Lane, President of the Lane college, Jackson, Tenn., will address the People's Lyceum next Sunday, September 3rd, at their hall, 1209 1-2 Central avenue. Everybody invited. There will be a good program.

"PERSECUTING THE FORUM"

LINCOLN'S BULL FIGHT RECALLED

Now that the Forum is practically out of business, its leaders are charging the down fall of the organization to "persecution" by this journal. This reminds us of Mr. Lincoln's bull fight. With a cane in hand, Mr. Lincoln one day, while walking across a field, was attacked by a huge bull. Finding it impossible to recross the fence, he made a dash for a near by hay stack. Hotly pursued by the bull, he ran around the hay stack, the bull plunging after him. The enormous size and momentum of the bull forced him to make wider circles in rounding the stack than Lincoln made. Taking advantage of this he gradually gained on the bull until he found himself directly behind him. Seizing the bull by his tail, Lincoln commenced punching him in his rear with his cane in a fearful manner. This unexpected turn in the combat so surprised the bull that he made a bee line from the hay stack bellowing at every jump. With one final terrific punch Lincoln yelled: "Who started this row anyhow?"

Rev. and Mrs. C. W. H. Nelson of San Francisco and their daughter Mrs. Dr. Nelson visited Santa Monica, Ocean Park and Venice Tuesday. Rev. Nelson will return to San Francisco and complete the work of re-building the A. M. E. Church.

Mrs. Locke of Long Beach left this week for Kansas City, being summoned there on account of the serious illness of a sister.

SANTA MONICA

A watermelon Social was given to the Pasadena visitors at So. Fourth street on the 24th. Those present were: Misses Marie Ford, Ethel Bradshaw, Ethyle Miller and Margaret Prince, Messrs. James H. Anderson, Richard Winters of Santa Monica and B. K. Edmonds of Sawtelle. The melons for the occasion were furnished by the Edmonds—Kajiura Produce Co.

The Don't Worry Club of Santa Monica entertained the visitors by the sea at the home of Miss Brown on South Main street., Tuesday evening the 29th. Those present were Misses Margaret Prince, Ethel Bradshaw of Pasadena. Miss Phillips, Nashville, Tennessee., Misses Bessie Brooks, Ella Daily, Ida Shaw, Ida Patterson, Bell Newman, Bessie Flemings, Rose Warner, Valorie Kimp, Edna Allen, Mamie Carter, and Lillian Chapman. Gentlemen present were:— Messrs. Wm. and James Taylor, Claude Neil, A. Washington, George and Tuscoe Hunt, James Anderson, Harry Henderson, Compton White, Richard Winters, Rufus Marshall, John Williams, Dawson Shears, Henry Butler, B. K. and Wm. Edmonds and Wm. Dudley.

The Don't Worry Club composed of the following young ladies Misses Mattie Dudley, Alberta, Muse, Edna Adams and Hazel Brown.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOTING

The following, inspired by a bill presented in the Georgia legislature which will exact a certificate of good character for the Negro voter from two white women, contains tons of wisdom.

To the Editor of the Sun— Sir:— After reading the article "New Way to Stop Negro Votes," in this morning's Sun, I am moved to write and suggest that it would be a good way to settle the woman suffrage question as well, and the franchise might be as reasonably extended to each woman who can produce the certificate of two chaste men that they would trust her in the dark.

A White Woman
West Brighton, S. I., July 29.

THE LIBERATOR

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J. L. EDMONDS, Editor and Business Manager.

JEFF L. EDMONDS, JR., Assistant Editor.

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How to Write for The Liberator.

Write only on one side of your paper.

Editors Address.....Sawtelle, Cal.

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BISHOP PARKS

The before the war methods of the Legree type used by Bishop Parks, at the late annual conference held in this city, will serve as a bar to keep worthy ambitious young men out of the conferences over which he presides. If his Los Angeles Conference was a sample of the others where he presides. We have nothing to say against the Bishop's character as a gentleman and Christian, but as a presiding officer he was wanting in many of those qualities that his position demands. There was only one man in the Conference and that was the Bishop. The other members of the Conference were treated by the Bishop as mere boys to run at his beck and call. The Conference was never opened or

closed on time. Like the king the bishop could do no wrong. If the ministers of the Conference should imitate the Bishop when they return to their charges, as they sometimes do, their church decorum will suffer greatly.

When the time came to elect delegates to the general conference, the Bishop arose, conscious of his mighty power and gave the preachers to understand that two certain gentlemen had to be elected—meaning Revs. Wilson and Peck. His words and manner called to mind the famous order of Napoleon Third—that in deciding the question of voting for emperor that every soldier could vote as he pleased, but the one voting no would be shot before sun down. It so happened that four of the preachers voting no were shot from the Conference.

The agitation for a Negro building at the Panama Exposition to be held at San Francisco in 1915 has about died out as it should have done. If the negroes of the country desire to make a special exhibit at the fair and are willing and able to finance the proposition, it might not be a harmful thing, but to agitate for a special appropriation, could have only a harmful effect. As things now stand, all places of amusement, hotels and restaurants are open to the negroes, that's why the negroes throughout the country, favored San Francisco as a place for the Fair.

If Dr. Washington had consulted the thoughtful negroes of this state before allowing his name to be used in connection with this negro building proposition, they would have esteemed it a favor. The negroes of California are treated as citizens and are allowed to enjoy unmolested whatever he honestly acquired. And he needs a continuation of the opportunities that are his in common with the other citizens of the state.

The Misses Stovall of Hollywood are taking a summer outing at the Thurman Rest Cottage.

NOTICE:—A representative of this journal will call upon friends at Pasadena next week. Subscribers and others indebted to this paper will please take notice and be ready.

Rev. Jackson, who was transferred from the Florida to the California Conference of the A. M. E. church, preached a masterly sermon at Wesley chapel last Sunday. The large audience that greeted him was greatly edified. Rev. Jackson will prove a valuable addition to the conference.

Mrs. Patten, daughter and son of this city are the guests of Mrs. Anderson and son of Santa Monica.

Mrs. Slatten and son are stopping a few days at the city by the sea.

Mr. Judson Turman of this city spent Saturday and Sunday with the editor and family at Sawtelle.

Mrs. M. C. Brown of 1338 East 33rd Street has her mother with her on an extended visit.

The editor of this journal will address the Art Club and Literary Society at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Corner Denker and West 35th Place, Monday eve., September 4th. Subject: "The Pioneer."

The State Grand Lodge of U. B. F. & S. M. T.s of California held their 6th Annual Session on Tuesday, August 29th at Scott's Hall, 561 Central Ave., which was the most interesting and harmonious session ever held—the following officers were elected and installed:

G. M.	M. T. White
D. G. M.	B. B. Odom
G. Sec.	V. Fingers
G. A. Sec.	M. Lofton
G. Chap.	Rev. C. H. Anderson
G. Treas.	G. W. Boggs
G. Aud.	J. S. Bowdan
Endow. Sec.	J. R. Collins
"	Treas. Eli Clark

After which a reception was tendered the delegates and friends.

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH EPISCOPAL

Between Clanton and 16th on Paloma Two blocks West of Central

Sunday school at 10 o'clock.

Celebration of the Blessed Sacrament with sermon at 11 o'clock. Subject: "The Borrowing Christ."

There will be no Vespers nor evening service during the month of September.

Rev. W. T. Cleghorn
Priest

Delegates from the north to the Afro-American State Council are J. B. Wison and S. W. Hawkins of Oakland.

Mesdames R. Henry, Stokes, Scott and Bynum left this week for several days outing at Redlands.

A most charming surprise party was tendered Miss Houston on Tennessee Street on Tuesday evening last. A host of our younger set were present and spent a delightful evening.

Fred Scott and J. Thomas Pollock were among the many guests of Mrs. Locke at Long Beach Sunday

Mrs. Rosa Henry entertained very pleasantly on Wednesday evening a few friends in honor of Rev. W. T. Cleghorn.

Mrs. L. A. Oliver of 2018 Darwin Ave. one of our most energetic Club women, has returned from the Federation of Women's Club meeting, recently held in Sacramento.

Rev. and Mrs. R. H. Henry who have been attending the annual conference of the A. M. E. Church left for Sacramento on Thursday. This makes the third year for the Dr. at Sacramento.

Rev. J. R. Dorsey the presiding elder of the Sacramento District of the A. M. E. Church remained over several days after the conference renewing old acquaintances.

On her way home she stopped at San Jose as the guest of Mrs. Boyer and at Allensworth as the guest of Mrs. Allensworth.

Mrs. Malone a former resident of this city, but now of Monrovia was among the many visitors in our city this week.

Mrs. R. C. Owens and family have returned from their summer outing.

A large number will leave our city on Sunday morning for San Diego when the Uniform Rank of K. of P. will have a celebration on Labor Day and evening.

Mrs. W. H. Alexander of Oakland is a visitor in our midst.

ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Miss Annie Williams, a trained nurse of Pensacola, Fla., is in the city. Miss Williams is making a tour of the west and will visit the Puget Sound and thence home through Colorado and Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. DeJoie and Mrs. Chas. Elgin, Jr. spent Tuesday at Sawtelle with the editor's family.

Mr. W. H. Washington, one of our public spirited business men entertained the entire California conference with an automobile sight-seeing tour about the city. The trip was greatly enjoyed by the visitors.

The Hall's Jubilee Singers made a great hit when they sang at the Soldiers encampment at Huntington Beach. They sang to an audience of 2500 people.

Mrs. Wm. Prince and Family who have been summering at the Beach left Wednesday for their home in Pasadena.

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Colored Farmers Raise Half-Million Bales of Cotton

'Taking the Southern States as a whole, I find that colored farmers last year produced four and a half million bales of cotton valued at about \$319,000,000. Colored farmers in the South produced last year 150,000,000 bushels of corn valued at about \$95,000,000. How many of these millions of dollars today remain in our hands, and how much has parted from us?

'The colored farmers of the South produced last year four and a half million bushels of oats valued at over two millions of dollars. They produced last year 850,000 bushels of wheat valued at nearly four million dollars, and 98,000,000 pounds of tobacco valued at about nine million dollars.

"It is estimated that the total value of the farm products of colored farmers of the South last year amounted to five hundred million dollars. In addition to what was produced by the farmers, I am safe in saying that those engaged in other gainful occupations such as professional service, domestic and personal service, and trade and manufacturing and mechanical pursuits earned last year at least two hundred million dollars, making the total earnings of our race in the South alone something over seven hundred million dollars.

"I repeat again and again that it is the duty of the Negro minister, the Negro teacher, the Negro business man, of the leaders of our race everywhere to see to it that a larger proportion of the tremendous amount earned by our race is invested in lands, houses, banks, schools, industrial institutions, colleges, churches, so invested that it will remain for all time in the possession of this generation and succeeding generations. If ten per cent. only of our annual earnings were set aside for such investment as I have suggested, the race would have every years seventy millions of dollars which would go into its permanent enrichment and enlightenment.

(To be Continued.)

The Third Annual bazaar at the Y. M. C. A. will begin Monday eve., Sept. 4th and continue four days. This bazaar will be in charge of the Ladies Auxiliary.

In charge of the program Monday, Mrs. H. W. Markham. Tuesday, Misses Senola Maxwell and Ella Kinard. Wednesday, W. H. Shores. Thursday, Hall's Jubilee Singers. Friday, Mrs. C. J. Smith.

Everything will be done to make this one of the most pleasant occasions in the history of the Y. M. C. A. Single tickets 10 cents, season tickets, five nights, 25 cents. Let everybody turn out and help the ladies and the great cause.

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The park has plenty of shade, and is large enough to be just the place for a day's pleasure. No intoxicating drinks will be allowed on the premises. Hurry and select your date. For further information call Broadway 3851, or see J. B. Loving, 927 E. Twelfth street. The park is located on Long Beach car line.

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SUMMONS

In the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the county of Los Angeles.
Emanuel Rogers, plaintiff, vs. Clara Rogers, defendant, No. 83164.

Action brought in the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Los Angeles and the Complaint filed in said County of Los Angeles, in the office of the Clerk of said Superior Court.

The people of the State of California send greetings to: Clara Rogers, defendant.

You are hereby directed to appear and answer the Complaint in an action entitled as above, brought against you in the Superior Court of the County of Los Angeles, State of California, within ten days after the service on you of this Summons—if served within this County; or within thirty days if served elsewhere.

And you are hereby notified that unless you appear and answer as above required the said Plaintiff will take judgment for any money or damages demanded in the Complaint, as arising upon contract or he will apply to the Court for any other relief demanded in the Complaint.

Given under my hand and the seal of the superior court of the county of Los Angeles, State of California, this 22d day of June, A. D., 1911.

H. J. LELANDE, Clerk.

By E. G. Riggins, Deputy Clerk.

(Superior Court Seal)

G. W. Wickliffe, attorney for plaintiff.

10 W.

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